

OBJECTION TO THE DECLARATION

Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the declaration and find it clearly identifies the country of citizenship of each inventor. For example, citizenship of Loher is "Swiss" (Switzerland); the citizenship of Mayer is "German" (Germany); the citizenship of Toginini is "Swiss" (Switzerland); the citizenship of Wegener is "Swiss" (Switzerland); and the citizenship of Wintermantel is "German" (Germany). It is believed that the country of citizenship is clearly identified. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw his objection to the declaration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Applicants have amended claims 1-16 as suggested by the Examiner. In regard to claim 10, the limitation "is processed" means that blank (7) undergoes further processing and thereby the claim language is an additional limitation. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants have amended the claims to include the language "and then axially pressed into the negative mold (13) thus giving the blank its shape." This claim language was not present in original independent claims 1 and 2 because of an error in translation. Accordingly, the claims and the specification have been amended to cite the original intent of the inventors. (It should be noted that a non-English copy of the application was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 5, 1997 as indicated in FORM PCT/DO/EO/903.)

The use of the language "this extrusion" is incorrect in connection with the present invention, also the production of the blanks. Extrusion is a fixed term for a type of processing. In the terms of content, the process used in U.S. Patent No. 4,978,360 is die forging and not extrusion. Therefore, this reference specifically emphasized by the Examiner does not involve forming by axially pressing the flow of the entire structure.

Accordingly, as the prior art fails to anticipate, teach or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103.

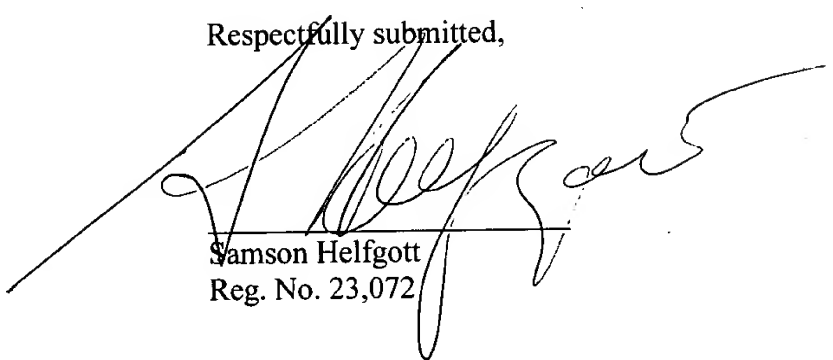
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 2 are in condition for allowance as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 08-1634.

Respectfully submitted,



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